# Board of County Commissioners Frederick County, Maryland 2010 - 2014 Major Accomplishments



### Sworn into office December 1, 2010

### **Budget Impacts:**

- **Eliminated** the Pension Program Plan for the Board of County Commissioners.
- **Reduced** BOCC Expense Accounts **by 90%,** from \$2500.00/ year to \$250.00/year for each commissioner.
- Made significant changes to the Frederick County Defined Benefit Pension Plan. The Plan is **now funded at 83%.** Based on these changes it should be at 90% by the end of our term. As of 6/30/2011 the **State's** retirement plan's actuarial funded status was at **64.7%.**
- Increased the contributions to the Pension Plan from the County Employees, 2% for non-uniformed employees (from 4% to 6%) and 1% for uniformed employees (from 8% to 9%)
- Established a <u>Defined Contribution Retirement Plan</u> for all new eligible Grant funded employees and employees at the County Nursing Home (Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center and Montevue Assisted Living) effective July 1, 2012, **relieving the taxpayers of the long term unfunded liabilities.**
- **Fully funded** the annual required contribution (ARC) for **OPEB** (retiree health benefits) and reduced the unfunded liability. The current market value of assets held in OPEB trust is \$51 million.
- Continue to reduce and restructure the size of County Government regarding the budget and full time employees (FTE's). Frederick County at its **peak** had **2,646 budgeted FTE's**, now at 2,281 in FY2013. **Currently** we are at **2,130** positions filled, with the goal to continue to reduce the size of government. We have **8% less** full-time/benefitted employees since Fiscal Year 2011 and **15% less** during Fiscal Year 2009.
- <u>Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) Program Payment in Lieu Option</u>; an applicant may now choose to make a payment to the Frederick County Housing Initiative Fund of \$17,500 per required MPDU.
- **Reduced** the Building Excise Tax Rate

#### Residential

- 700 square feet up to 1,400 square feet /from **\$0.10 to \$0.00**
- 1,400 square feet+/from **\$0.25 to \$0.00**

### Non-Residential

- -From \$0.75 to \$0.00
- **Reduced** the Trailer Park Tax Rate from **15%** of Rental Receipts to **\$0.00**.
- Implemented a <u>Senior Tax Credit</u> for Senior Citizens of Frederick County.
  - -As of July 30, 2012, **477** Senior Citizens have **taken advantage of the credit**
- Implemented a new Pay Scale for Fire and Rescue Services uniformed employees.
- Restored the Pay Scale for Frederick County Deputies.

- **Reduced** the admissions and amusement tax rate to 0% for all categories.
- Implemented a **Merit Step** and **COLA** for Frederick County Government Employees for FY2013; **no raises previous 4 years.**
- Moved up School Construction Projects:
  - -Oakdale Elementary School Addition-moved up 1 year from 2013 to 2012.
  - -North Frederick Elementary Addition/Modernization-**moved up 1 year** from 2015 to 2014.
  - -Frederick High School Modernization- **moved up 1 year** from 2017 to 2016.
- A \$100.00 Frederick County Real Property **Tax Credit was returned to all home owner** occupied properties/\$6.7 million dollars; equivalent to **a 3 cent tax cut**.
- Created an <u>APFO School Mitigation Fee Ordinance</u> to **raise money for school** construction and to give developers/builders an option to pay more for schools and create
   jobs.
- Bond Rating: Immediate changes by this board resulted in a bond rating upgrade by Fitch. Fitch's AAA bond rating outlook changed from negative to stable with our July 2011 bond issue. The last two bond refundings have produced the following results:
   February 2012: 1.7258% = True Interest Cost (TIC) \$6,194,021 = Debt Service Savings (FY2012 FY2025) August 2012: 1.336% = True Interest Cost (TIC) \$3,072,981 = Debt Service Savings (FY2012 FY2021)

### **Taking Care of Business:**

- Frederick County is "Open for Business":
  - Business Friendly Improvement Areas Action Items: Initiated January 1, 2011.
     Identified over 260 Rules/Regulations/Fees/Taxes to be eliminated/reduced or modified. To date over 170 have been completed (close to 65% of total)
  - Created a Community Development Authority, a funding mechanism for the new <u>Jefferson Technology Park</u>. It will bring an estimated **7,100 jobs** and **\$185 million** in income tax revenue to the County.
  - Eliminated the \$65.00 permit fee for Dishwasher, Hot Water Heater and Garbage Disposal permits.
  - o **Eliminated** the **\$100.00** annual notification fee for Home Security Systems.
  - o <u>Extended Permitting Service Hours</u> for Homeowners; now open until 6:00 PM on Wednesdays.
  - o New <u>Outreach Program</u> to **visit** Frederick County Businesses **every week**. Part of the business friendly <u>Strategic Plan</u>. Businesses feel that they are being heard.
  - Extended payment plans for water and sewer capacity fees, sometimes called connection fees, paid by small businesses, reducing the burdensome upfront expenses that often prohibit the start of new business. Financing is now available for terms up to 10 years, at the option of the applicant.
  - o **Reduced** the septage disposal fees from \$35.00 per ton to \$18.00 per ton.
  - o **Reduced** the fees associated with the sale of bulk water from \$25 per thousand gallons to \$10.00 per thousand gallons.
  - o **Reduced** the Capacity Adjustment Factors used in the calculation toward the payment water and/or sewerage capacity fees for approximately 75% customer/business types and included a new initiative providing:
  - o **Reduced** water and sewer capacity fees for certain customer/business types obtaining LEED Certification.

- Expanded the use of <u>credit card payments</u> by partnering with electronic payment processor Govolution. Govolution has extensive experience with governmental transactions, and offers a wide array of products that will greatly benefit the County and its citizens.
- Funded an additional \$1.6 million for one-time capital expenses including \$40,000 for temporary Urbana Elementary School bathrooms and \$1,560,000 for technology improvements in FY13.

<u>Back to Basics</u> - Cooperation with our Municipalities: Brunswick, Burkittsville, Emmitsburg, Frederick City, Middletown, Mount Airy, Myersville, New Market, Rosemont, Thurmont, Walkersville and Woodsboro:

- **Ended** the **long contentious judicial review** with the **County's 12 Towns and Municipalities** of imposed APFO on New Annexations.
- **Eliminated charging municipalities** \$1.00 per parcel on tax bills to their residents.
- Re-established the <u>Tax Equity Program</u> with the Municipalities, **ending another contentious issue**; a 55% increase in revenue to towns from \$7.4 million to \$11.5 million.
- Established the Tax Differential Program:
  - The City of Frederick tax rate was reduced 12.3 cents to \$ .8130 for a total of \$7.6 Million.
  - Town of Myersville **reduced** 11.72 cents to \$.8188 for a total of \$174,000.

## **Public/Private Partnerships:**

- Privatization and Other Service Delivery Models: As we reduce the size of government
  we will continue to utilize private companies, contractors, and part-time non-benefitted
  employees to deliver services while not assuming the long term liabilities, such as
  pensions and benefits to the taxpayers.
- Head Start Services transfer to the YMCA. **Saved** over **\$2 million dollars** in salaries and benefits to the taxpayers of Frederick County while providing the same service.
- Outsourced Sewer Televising Inspection Services will **save** approximately **\$190,000.00**.
- Currently Dining Services at the County Nursing Home, our "helpdesk" for technology service and inventory management, and some Internal Audit Services have been **transferred to private companies.** Pilot Programs have begun for Public Improvement Agreements for developer funded streets and storm drains.
- Identified synergies with the Frederick County Board of Education. Frederick County Public Schools now assumes total responsibility of Frederick County Government's warehouse and mail room operations. The **warehouse merger** alone is projected to yield a savings of **\$80,000** in **the first year** of operation, and approximately **\$124,000** per year thereafter. Pilot Programs approved by the Board and in progress:

## May 2012

- ➤ L-3 Services for the **outsourcing** of the IIT helpdesk functions and inventory management.
- ➤ Parks and Recreation Division to start a **pilot program** for Rose Hill maintenance including:
  - Chimney inspection and cleaning

Carpet cleaning
Tree trimming or removal
Exterior painting
Garage door repair
Alarm systems maintenance and monitoring (expanded)

### **Other areas being considered** for contracting in the future include:

Subsurface drain inspection and flushing
Wood floor refinishing
Leaf removal
Exterior window cleaning
Snow removal (at Rose Hill and other County facilities where appropriate)

### **June 2012**

- ➤ The Frederick County Internal Audit function was **outsourced**. The contract awarded to Cotton and Company and SC&H on June 28, 2012.
- > The Division of Public Works to start the following **pilot programs**:
  - o **Pilot program** for Public Improvement Agreements for developer funded streets and storm drains.
  - o Pilot program for automated time keeping.
  - o **Solicit proposals** for Highway Operation's Chip Seal and Crack Maintenance, Weed Control (spraying) and Carcass removal.
  - o minor vehicle maintenance
  - o Use of retired law enforcement vehicles for non-emergency service
  - o **Pilot program** for build/operate HVAC system at 520 North Market Street.

### **Synergies success:**

• This BOCC convened a **Synergies Committee** to seek and obtain valuable efficiencies and tax savings on various projects and endeavors in which Frederick County. Government participated with one or more other governmental entities in the County—Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS), Frederick Community College, The City of Frederick and other municipalities. These efforts resulted in over **\$6 million in savings** in 2011 with projected savings of over **\$3 million** per year in **future years**. In 2011, the savings were primarily due to new, cooperative purchasing with FCPS (\$1.479 million), joint participation in a CIGNA health insurance program (\$2.7 million), and joint participation with FCPS in parks and recreation programs (\$1.0 million).

#### Also:

- Moved our Interagency Information Technologies Division to Winchester Hall. The
  county building at 117 East Church Street that housed this division is for sale, which
  will put the facility back on the tax rolls. A <u>Task Force</u> has been formed and county
  employees from the 118 North Market Street facility, also for sale, will transfer to the
  former Montevue Assisted Living site once renovations are complete.
- Assisted in securing funds of \$1 million for a loan from Woodsboro Bank to Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company for their new Fire Hall.
- Large Business Tax Credit Legislation adopted by the 2011 Maryland General Assembly.
- **Small Business Tax Credit** Legislation adopted by the 2012 Maryland General Assembly.
- Instituted an **Invocation/Prayer** to open the BOCC meetings.
- Established English as the Official Language of Frederick County.
- Planned, developed and opened to the public 60 <u>Community Garden</u> Plots at Ballenger Creek Park, where citizens could grow their own produce, as a way to promote better nutritional health and provide agricultural education opportunities for children and their families.
- Restructured the Frederick County <u>Installment Purchase Program</u> (IPP) to incorporate a bidding process in order to preserve more productive farmland at a lower cost to the County. 11/16/2012
- **<u>Iefferson Technology Park</u>** Developer Rights and Responsibilities (DRRA)
- <u>The Charter of Frederick County</u> was approved by the voters on November 6, 2012. It will change the present commissioner form of government to charter home rule government on December 1, 2014.

### **Establishing:**

**Land Trust:** Creates Affordable Housing forever.

**Foreclosure Clean up Act:** Eliminates MPDU's (Moderately Priced Dwelling Units) and uses those funds to help cleanup up foreclosures in neighborhoods throughout Frederick County.